

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-316

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What response does the Department have to the North East Division of General Practice in Adelaide which says there are "double standards" and an "unfair playing field" in regard to the Commonwealth and State Government funded Modbury Super Clinic?

Answer:

The comments by the North East Division of General Practice in Adelaide were made in the context of a district of workforce shortage issue (Leader Messenger articles, *Northeast GP Shortage* of 7 July 2010 and *Backflip on overseas GPs* of 21 July 2010, refer).

The Modbury GP Plus Super Clinic sought a preliminary assessment of district of workforce shortage to employ two overseas trained general practitioners. Due to an administrative error the Department provided a preliminary assessment of district of workforce shortage to the Modbury GP Super Clinic for this purpose. The error in issuing the preliminary assessment of district of workforce shortage was realised on the 9 July 2010 and the preliminary assessment of district of workforce shortage was rescinded.

On 12 July 2010 Mr Mark Booth, Assistant Secretary, Workforce Distribution Branch, contacted Dr Taylor, CEO Adelaide Unicare the operators of the Modbury GP Super Clinic by phone to advise of the administrative error in relation to this decision and advised that the doctors will be able to access the Medicare benefits at the Modbury Super Clinic for services provided in an after hours capacity only. A letter was sent by email and post to Dr Taylor confirming this conversation.